

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Tuesday, December 4. 1705.

TIS a strange thing, that these Great People, Lords, Generals, nay, and Kings too, should impose any thing upon the Publick, and Write Letters to the Government, that cannot be depended upon——This Paper was Undertaken early, and on purpose to detect Frauds of all sorts, and promised in its beginning, that nobody should be so great, but, if his Error required, this Author would boldly speak Truth of him, let the Consequences be what they will.

Indeed the Consequences are generally bad, when Publick People assert Falshoods, and impose upon the World what is not in it self Fast, and expect they should be Believ'd, upon the bare Authority of their Character; an Eminent and Melancholly Instance of which, we have in the *Paris Gazette*, who positively affirming in Print,

that *Barcelona* held out still, above a Month after it was actually Surrendred; drew all his Master's Friends here into a most Unhappy Error; and if we may believe the Accounts which we have from Foreign Parts, or guess at them by what was to be seen here; so entirely did the People of that side, depend upon the Credit of a Print, *Avec Priviège Du Roy*; or in English, *Publish'd by Authority*; that they adventur'd their Money with such Confidence, that we began to doubt our own Intelligence, and the Wagers laid on that head to the very last, were so Great, that I believe I speak Modestly if I say, they have lost as much Money, as the City of *Barcelona* is worth, if all the Rents of it were to be Sold at 20 Years Purchase.

So strong is the Power of Publick Deceit, and as this has been fatal to our Enemies, I am Sorry I must Complain of our

own side, and Charge our Friends; and First to begin with my Lord P——'s Letter, which I shall Confront with an Authority of near equal Dignity, as to P——r- age, and Superiour, much Superiour in Politicks, Experience, Morals and every thing that ought to Summon our entire Credit.

First, my Lord P——b, in his Letter to the Queen, giving Her Majesty an Account of his Successes and Victories in *Catalonia*, after the Words, *Your Majesty's Arms*, adds very Unhappily, and *those of your Allies*. Now this must be plain downright Robbery of the *English* Nation for, "If it be Our Misfortune, to have Allies that are slow and backward, that hold our Hands, and will not suffer us to take any Opportunity that offers; I cannot see what it is, we are reasonably to expect. L—d H——sham's Speech, Page 2. I shall not go about to shew the Grammatical Construction of these Words; but certainly all that has been done in *Catalonia*, must be done by the *English* Nation, and my Lord P——b has been Brib'd only, to Rob his own Countrymen of their due Honour; Or else——Or else what? Why, or else 'tis plain; Our Allies are not as *slow and backward*, as we are *Zealous and forward*, and do not hold our hands when Opportunity offers; so that one of these two Noble P.... must talk very oddly, and how to Reconcile them I know not; indeed I am apt to give my Opinion, always for him that is nearest home; who ought to know things best, and therefore my Lord P——b must Excuse me, if I do not believe his Lordship, against a Man of such known Integrity and Morals as the other.

But this is not all, there are some worse, and yet blacker Scandals to be thrown upon my Lord P——b, than all this; and for which we are bound to run the Risque of his Lordships Resentment, and an Action of *Scandalum Magnatum*, which the Fact being so plain, the Author promises to ask God Almighty Pardon; and Hang himself before he will Sign such a Paragraph too, as we find Justice C....

did for my Lord Bishop of S——m, in the last Gazette.

Nor does this Article lie fairly against my Lord P——b only, but against the King of *Spain*, the Letters from *Catalonia*, the Queens Speech, and all of them together; Why, Madam, your Majesty must be impos'd upon, these things cannot be true, there can be no such thing—— For the Campaign Ended the 19th of August. Vide my Lord H——sham's Speech, Page 2.

"The Dutch held our Hands at Overyse, and would not let us give the Declive Blow; and THUS ENDED YOUR CAMPAIGN.

I profess, my Lord P——b ought to blush for Imposing thus upon the whole Nation, and to be Call'd to Account for it; that he should pretend to Conquer whole Provinces and Kingdoms, when 'tis plain our hands were held, and the Campaign Ended before he Landed in *Catalonia*—— But this is not all.

'Tis very hard, we cannot send our Honest *Englishmen* Abroad, but they all turn Whigs, grow *Dutchif'd*, and their Principles quite Debauch'd as to *England*; they go Abroad and see what the *Dutch* do, and how they Act, how slow and backward they are to help us, and they pretend to know things as well as our People that stay at Home, and that shut the Eyes of their Understandings, and see with the quick Sighted and Intense Opticks of their Passions and Parties. 'Tis strange, People Abroad in *Holland*, and *Catalonia*, should Pretend to know as much of the *Dutch*, as our Nobility that stay here, and Consult the Ever Living Oracles of R—— and N——. Preposterous P——b, to send Home such Ridiculous Encomiums of the *Dutch*; Why, my Lord, don't we know that you had no Dutchmen along with your Lordship, no Dutch Fleet or Troops in *Catalonia*? How can it be, the *Dutch* have no manner of Concern in the matter; 'tis plain, either you have no *Dutchmen* with you, or some body has no Eyes in his Head. L—d H——sham's Speech, Page 3. "I cannot see, how the *Dutch* have been one Shilling out of Pocket since this War." Now

Now my Lord P——gb must excuse me to believe if the *Dutch* do assist us, and are at any Charge in this Matter, my Lord H——sham must needs see it; for all Men know he is not blind neither in his Optick's nor Intellects, unless the Mists of Parties have had any effect upon him, and I hope he is a wiser Man than so.

'Tis a very unhappy Case therefore, that this poor Nation is to be thus eternally imposed upon; That our Great, our Wise, our Noble Heads of Polirick, should deviate from Truth, and give us Accounts of things, either one way or other, that no Body can depend upon; if the *Dutch* have been nothing out of Pocket, I cannot conceive how they should have any Ships of War or Troops of Soldiers in this Expedition, unless they have got a knack of Manning Fleets, and raising Men without Money, which, if they have, I wish some Body here would claim a Patent for the same Invention.

But then we are to examine the Reason, why any Body should believe, that the *Dutch* are not out of Pocket; all that I see alledg'd, is, that they have Remittances from *England*, that surmount all they are out for *Germany*, *Portugal* and *Savoy*——Now tho' this were true, tho' I see no pretended Proof of it, yet I may be allow'd to ask—What is all this to what they are out of Purse for *Catalonia*; for the Equipment of their Fleet, and for 80000 Men and upwards, which they have in pay?

If all their Fleet and Army, or so much of of them as they keep in Pay, more than they would do in time of Peace, with all the Ordinance Office, &c. be paid from *England*, then something might be said—But till that be proved, the Suggestion must pass with me for a meer——

What shall we say now for the King of *Spain*, and what for my Lord P——gb, who join with one Assent in ascribing all these things to the Arms of her Majesty and her Allies? neither does her Majesty her Self mention her Prospects of future Successes, but in Conjunction with her Allies; and yet at the same time these Allies are repre-

sented by another Person in Front, as being slow and backward in assisting us, and with being at no Expence in this War, drawing so much from us, that they go free themselves.

I must in Good Manners, and for the sake of that you see I go a great way; allow all that is spoken in the House of L——ds to be punctually true; for sure no English Nobleman can be supposed to assert, or suggest any thing in that August Assembly, that he had not very good Ground for—And, if so, 'tis plain that all that is said from *Catalonia* must be false; and so far this must be an Answer to the Letters Published by Authority, and said to come from *Catalonia*; and a Confutation of all our pretended Good News there, or else it cannot be confuted at all!

'Tis very unhappy for the Gentlemen, whose dally Clamours fill our Heads with bad News, and teize our Thoughts with Miscarriages, Mismanagement, &c. that from the beginning of this Complaint, we have had nothing but Good News come in from abroad, and the bad Aspect of our Affairs at the unhappy Bank at the *Moselle*, is retrieved, with various Good Successes, where we did not expect them; that considering all, this may without Boasting be call'd a happy Campaign: If this be not so, both L——s and C——s in their Addresses at the Opening this Parliament have amus'd the World and their Maker, in thanking God, and Congratulating the Queen on the Glorious Success of her Arms; and that before the News of this extraordinary Addition, the Conquest of *Catalonia*. Now if these Generals and Folks abroad have given the Queen a false Account of things, have banter'd the Nation, and it should not be true, then indeed something may be in it; but they, by the way, ought to be H——d for abusing us. But if all be true from abroad; if the *Dutch* have, according to my Lord P——gb, been in a perfect Agreement with the Officers of the States General of Sea and Land; and nothing has been desired from the Dutch Admirals, or offered to the Dutch Generals, which has—

has not been comply'd with, even beyond what could be hoped or reasonably desired.

If on all Occasions they furnish their due *Quota*; if they fail not in Duty, Expence, nor Desire of the Publick Good; what then must we say to Printing of Speeches, but that it is *Lamp*—ing our Allies, Discouraging the War, and weakening the Hands of the Confederacy, at least it is so in Effect, whatever it be in Intention?

Then we are unhappily confronted again; the Contradictions are endless! What must the poor Common People do, when they are thus amused with different Accounts, and all from such High Authority? When Men of Character and Dignity, nay when the Queen her self tells us things that these Gentlemen contradi&? What shall we say to it? Here we are told of our *Allies coming into the Field, when were going into Winter Quarters*. If this be to be taken Allegorically, That the *Germans*, for of them it must be meant, are Slow and Late, it may at Large have something in it; and yet we find them, 1. No slower nor backward than generally speaking they always are; and 2. no slower nor backward than the Circumstances of the Empire does of Course occasion, and which we knew before. 3. But if this is to be taken for an Allegory, it ought to have been express'd like one, and it ought to have had some Analogy of *Paris*—On the contrary they were in the Field early enough to do more than *We*, early enough to prevent the Enemy with all their Great Army's doing any thing; early enough to beat the *French* out of the *Lower Alsace*; drive them from their Lines, and take from them *Drusenheim* and *Hagenau*, in the Face of their Forces, and as for Winter Quarters, *they did all this*; and, if I mistake not, went into Winter Quarters before us too.

Really, Gentlemen-Generals and Statesmen, I am entirely at a loss, and can make no consistent Argument out of all these things. One Great Man says one thing, and another says the contrary; one Talks and Prints; another Writes, and it is printed; the Queen Speaks and Prints, and these things Clash with one another;

What shall poor Authors do? 'Tis impossible for us to reconcile Contraries, and make Arguments out of Contradiction; let People be of what Quality they will, unless they will speak Truth there is no defending them—This therefore is the short and long of the Matter, and is an effectual Answer to my Lord P——*gb's* Letter, That either what he has wrote, or what some Body else has spoke, can *NOT BE TRUE*; and let these two Eminent Persons Debate the Matter themselves.

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